THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

विमानों द्वारा छिड़काव कर बीजारोपण

7119. **श्री गोविन्दराव आदिक** : क्या **कृषि** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पिछले वर्ष मानसून के आगमन से पूर्व सरकार द्वारा विमानों से छिड़काव कर किए गए बीजारोपण का ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि विमानों द्वारा डाले गए अधिकांश बीज वर्षा के पानी के साथ बह जाते हैं ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार इस स्थिति में सुधार करने के लिए छिड़काव की प्रक्रिया में सुधार करने पर विचार कर रही है ;

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है ;

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरविंद नेताम) : (क) पर्यावरण तथा वन मंत्रालय की एरियल सीडिंग स्कीम के अन्तर्गत तमिलनाडु में 1993-94 में विमानों द्वारा छिड़काव कर 10,000 हैक्टेयर क्षेत्र में बीजारोपण किया गया।

(ख) से (ङ) विमानों द्वारा बीजारोपण बीहड़ों, पहाड़ियों एवं बंजर भूमि उबड़-खाबड़ क्षेत्रों के लिए उपयुक्त है जहां निर्धारित समय में परंपरागत विधियों से बड़े पैमाने पर वनरोपण करना दुसाध्य है। विमान से छिड़के जाने वाले बीजों का वर्षा के जल से कुछ न कुछ असर पड़ना संभव है। बहरहाल, इस योजना में "साँइल वर्किंग" तथा बीजों के "पैलेटाइजेशन" का भी प्रावधान है जिससे आकाश से गिराए जाने वाले बीजों पर वर्षा के जल का दुष्प्रभाव काफी हद तक कम हो जाता है।

Growth Rate in Agriculture

7120. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Economic Survey recently tabled in Parliament has suggested that growth rate in agriculture be raised from the current 2.2 per cent to at least three per cent; and

(b) if so, how Government propose to achieve the said target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir. However, rate of growth of crop production during the period 1980-81 to 1992-93 is observed as 3.22 per cent per annum.

(b) For achieving higher growth rate in agriculture it is proposed to increase the rate of investment in agriculture both public and private sectors, as also to upgrade the quality of extension and research support, propogation of dry-land technology, efficient price and market support, development of food and agro-processing industries along with adequate credit support.

Employment Generation in Agricultural Sector

7121. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employment generation is necessary for the reduction of poverty in the country;

(b) whether in the present industrial and economic climate, employment generation on a significant scale can take place in the unorganised sector, mainly agriculture;

(c) whether the promotion of agricultural growth should be the focus of Government policy; and

(d) if so, whether public investment should shift from subsidization of agricultural inputs to investment in irrigation and land development and, if so, what steps Government intend to take in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Despite some shifts in occupational structure in favour of secondary and tertiary sectors during the last two decades, agriculture still occupies a predominant place in employment structure employing about two-third of the total workers and bulk of employment opportunities will have to accrue in unorganised sector including agriculture.

(c) The Government attaches high priority to agriculture. Eighth Plan aims at not only achieving self-sufficiency in food but also generating surplus of specific Agricultural commodities for export.

(d) The Government aims at reducing subsidies and rationalising farm inputs prices so as to divert larger resources for investment in agriculture and irrigation.

Seed Producing Companies

7122. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTUR be pleased to state:

(a) the seed producing companies which are working in collaboration with foreign companies;

(b) what variety of seeds these companies are selling at present alongwith their quantity; and

(c) what variety of seeds is imported by them annually with details of their quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) At present there are fifty seed producing companies working in collaboration with foreign companies.

(b) and (c) The collaborations of these companies have been approved mainly for production of hybrid Sunflower seeds, vegetable seeds, propagating material of trees, shrubs and ornamental flowers and seeds and seedlings of agro-forestry. Details of companywise seed sales are not available. The quantity of seeds imported into the country was 428.390. 148.082 and 235.064 MTs in the year 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 (Upto December, 93) respectively. The imported seeds pertained mainly to vegetable seeds like cabbage, tomato and cauliflower etc., sunflower, flower seeds, oramental palm seeds, and forest seeds etc.

Subsidy on Plant Projective Chemicals

7123. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Sector/Centrally sponsored schemes subsidy on Plant Protection Chemical allowed by them for various schemes are not on a uniform pattern;

(b) whether it is a fact that in some schemes the subsidy is @ 25 per cent of the cost and in some @50 per cent; and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Rajasthan Government have approached the Central Government time and again over this matter but with no result and no decision has been taken so far; and